(c) and (d) No, Sir. The security arrangements at the magazines of Peach and Kanhan Areas under Chhindwara District are proper and adequate. There are watch towers fitted with communication *e.g.* sirens/telephones. Lighting arrangements are adequate. Barbed wire fencing/chain linked fencing is installed around the magazines. Explosives and detonator rooms are having "Godrej" motorized locks and during night hours the magazines are guarded by the armed guards. Following security arrangements have been made by WCL:

During night hours armed guards are deployed at explosive magazine.

Installation of watch towers at the main/service magazines having provision of siren/telephone.

Adequate lighting facilities for better illumination.

125 CISF personnel on internal security duties w.e.f. 16.10.2007 have been deployed at Pench Area. Efforts are on to deploy another 231 CISF personnel at Pench Area.

Joint survey for deployment of CISF personnel at Kanhan Area has been carried out.

Instructions have been issued to all the areas that all the explosives during transit must be escorted by the security personnel.

Regular monitoring with the areas by Head Quarters (HQ) is being done.

Instructions have been issued from HQ for carrying time to time mock rehearsals at explosive magazines and during transportation as preparation to counter attacks on the magazines, which are being implemented.

(e) Following steps have been taken by the coal company to stop incidents of looting of explosives:—

(i) The local area management of Kanhan Area as well as Chief Security Officer (CSO), WCL, have requested the DIG of Police, Chhindwara Range, for posting of 15 SAF personnel at the magazines of Kanhan Area, on payment basis.

(ii) Joint survey w.e.f. 24th March, 2008 for deployment of CISF has been carried out at 'Kanhan Area.

(iii) Night patrolling has been intensified with the help of local police and watch towers have been installed at all the magazines with communication facilities like siren/ telephones.

(iv) Antecedents verification of the explosive handlers by the police is ensured.

Giving coal mines to private sector

†3251. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether it is fact that Government is considering to hand over the management of coal mines of Chhindwara district to private sector;

if so, the names of coal mines being proposed to be handed over to the private sector;

the coal mines being proposed to be handed over and to whom; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the reasons for handing over these coal to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (c) The Government have allocated following coal blocks in the command area of Western Coalfields Limited located in the Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh to Government/private companies for captive mining:—

Name of the block	Name of the allocattee
Mandla South	M/s. Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation
Mandla North	M/s. Jaiprakash Associates Limited
Sial-Ghoghri	M/s. Prism Cement Limited
Rawanwara North	M/s. SKS Ispat Limited
Brahampuri	M/s. Pushp Steel and Mining Limited

Further, Government have identified two more coal blocks namely Tandsi-III & Extn. and Thesgora-B/Rudrapur, located in Chhindwara district, Madhya Pradesh and invited applications for allocation of these blocks, for captive use. These two coal blocks have been earmarked for allocation for captive use of production of iron and steel and production of cement to eligible companies based on relative merit. No company has been identified for allocation as yet.

(d) As per the provisions of the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973, coal blocks are allocated to eligible companies both public and private, to bridge the gap between demand and supply. The blocks identified are those which are not required by Coal India Limited for their production programme upto the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

BSNL Mobile connections in Kerala

3252. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that there is a vast mismatch between demand for BSNL mobile connections in the State of Kerala and the capacity of the organisation to give connections; and

if so, how Government proposes to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATipN TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing mobile connections in Kerala Circle on demand for the current year. In addition, purchase orders have already been placed for 10.15 lakh lines capacity expansion of mobile network in Kerala Circle.

(b) The connections are being provided on demand. The position will further improve on expansion of mobile network as stated in (a) above.

Status of private operators

3253. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

the status of the private operators who have been issued Letter of Intents (Lois); and

the time-frame by which they can operate their services?